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O. A. MENET, Representative.

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 1908.

HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT

The "International League for Highway Improvement," formerly the "National Roads Association," has prepared a bill for presentation to Congress, which contemplates the improvement of interstate roads and post routes, and the appointment of a national commission on highway improvement. This bill provides for a survey of four or more East and West 24 feet highways with laterals, but in co-ordination with State highway systems; it also provides for experimental tests of road-building materials; suggests a conference with representatives of other countries of this continent upon "an international plan of highway improvement"; and appropriates \$1,000,000 to carry the purposes of the bill into effect.

It is a quite comprehensive plan and is evidently intended as the preliminary step toward the establishment of a national highway system. With complete surveys in hand, and the choice of building materials determined, there would remain only the work of constructing the links needed to connect the State systems or to build roads through States which have not yet adopted the "good roads" policy. Though the bill limits the work to East and West highways, it is probable that at a later date North and South highways would be included.

Congress is the one great obstacle. Attention to a new matter is not easily secured, and it is usually difficult to secure appropriations for other than purposes of long standing.

Of course, it will be said that the proposed national highways would be for the use of automobilists, but such is not the actual fact. Automobiles would use them of course, but so also would the general public, and it is an established fact that real estate within reaching distance of a good road always increases in market value. There is just as good reason for national highways as for navigable waterways. It is permissible to use national money to improve the latter, it is equally permissible to use it for the betterment of highways.

The "International League for Highway Improvement" is engaged in a good work and we are inclined to wish its success, but without much hope thereof at least until the government's finances are in better condition than at present. A very large sum would be required to carry this work into full effect.

President Taft is, it is reported, desirous that Congress shall, at its next session, institute a postal savings bank system, in accordance with the pledge embodied in the National Republican platform. On the other hand, some of the Republican leaders in Congress are urging postponement until the Aldrich Monetary commission shall make its report. It is rather difficult to see what connection there can be between a revision of the currency system and the postal savings bank project, unless it be true, as reported, that the Monetary commission contemplates the establishment of a great central bank which shall hold the power of contracting or expanding the currency. In such event, the aggregate of deposits in the postal savings banks might be so large as to embarrass, or perhaps defeat, the central bank's plans, unless the latter were made the exclusive depository for the postal banks. We can rest assured that Senator Aldrich will exhaust his power in endeavors to make the proposed postal system serve the purposes of the big financial interests, for as the N. Y. Journal of Commerce says "he early allied himself with the money power to secure his advancement in politics, and he has served it and it has served him with the loyalty of mutual self-interest throughout his public career." Such is the man to whom has been entrusted the revision of our currency system and into whose hands may be given the work of providing for a postal savings bank system.

"Success" Magazine is not enamored with the new tariff. It says: "The tariff act of 1908 is a hodge-podge of increases and reductions, of jokers and of the confusing mixtures of ad valorem and specific duties. It can easily be shown that on the consumption basis the new law is either a revision upward or downward, according to the will of the statistician, but the fact remains that few if any duties on articles of common use are reduced sufficiently to lower prices to the consumer, while a number, notably of clothing materials, excepting shoes, are shamefully increased. The question of the cost of production raised, which the Republican platform promised would be taken into consideration in fixing rates, was almost completely ignored. The result constitutes a law which is in actual practice a betrayal of the pledges of the revision party and of President Taft, for which betrayal they will have to answer to the people at the next election."

And its conclusion is that "the tariff agitation and the fight for a lowering of the cost of living has only really begun."

GREED FOR CURRENCY INFLATION IS CHARGED

Chairman of Postal Savings Bank League Bares Motives of Some National Banks in Fighting Carter Bill

SHORTSIGHTED IN THEIR VIEW

George H. Currier Points Out Benefits Accruing to Banks as Well as Public by Pending Measure to Promote Thrift and Savings.

Chicago, Aug. 30.—The active hostility of some national banking interests to the long delayed postal savings depository bill, notwithstanding the obvious benefits of the measure to all interests but savings banks has had caustic explanation here by Chairman George H. Currier of the Postal Savings Bank League. Anxiety of National banks to increase their currency issues and their consequent greed for government bonds, necessitating an inflation of the public debt, he has held up for public gaze.

Citing the case of a man who suddenly came into a legacy of controlling interest in a national bank, Mr. Currier, in an article in the Chicago magazine, "Everyday Life," said: "Now that he was a banker by virtue of sudden good fortune he resolved to find out and settle in his own mind why a postal savings depository system, that he had felt the need of, was so impractical and unneeded in this country that Congress could continue, session after session, to fail to vote to create it. Bills have been pending for sixteen years and there is a clear majority for the Carter bill today but the minority prevents a vote."

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Adams' Claim Unsettled Against N. H. Road

New Haven, Aug. 30.—In regard to the claim of the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad company against the Adams Express company, reaching back for a considerable number of years, the authoritative statement is made here that although the claim has not been actively pressed during the last two months, it is still pending and will probably be considered at an early meeting of the directors of the express company, who are expected to make a proposition to the railroad corporation for a settlement.

For indigestion and all stomach trouble take Foley's Orino Laxative as it stimulates the stomach and liver and regulates the bowels and will positively cure habitual constipation. F. B. Brill, local agent.

GROVER CLEVELAND WAS A PARTY MAN

PERSONAL MEMORIES OF HIS PARTISANSHIP AND HIS INDEPENDENCE

THE FAMOUS VICTORIA DINNER

Cleveland's Own Word for the Assertion That No Person Could Disprove His Part in the Conference Held on That Occasion.

(From Richard Watson Glider's "Cleveland's Re-election and Second Administration" in the September Century.)

Mr. Cleveland was decidedly a party man. He believed that every man should be active in politics, and he practiced this doctrine from early manhood. After his retirement we had a talk about this, in which he spoke as having had a letter from a young man asking his advice concerning party affiliations. He said he told him of his own experience, how he had early gone into local party work, standing all day at the polls. Mr. Cleveland added, "I never had anything to do with anything that was shady or corrupt."

I sometimes had an amused suspicion that although he admired and was grateful to the Independents who came to his support, more than that, and although he felt a keen moral sympathy with them, and gave some of them his intimate friendship, the fact that they had been Republicans and might easily become Democrats again, was just a slight regret in his mind. When, on some inland fishing expedition, he fell in with an old-time Democratic farmer, especially one who was faithful to what the President considered "sound Democratic doctrine," he warmed up to the old fellow amazingly.

I do not believe he ever voted for a candidate outside of his party. He might have been called a "party man" in certain campaigns in his later years, possibly owing to what he looked upon as un-Democratic platforms and constantly being received by the ever-present sense of obligation because of the great honors and responsibilities his party had bestowed upon him. He doubtless voted for a Democrat not on the "regular ticket," but a feeling of propriety kept him from vehemently opposing a candidate of his party, even if he was a Democrat in his opinion, might be leading the party into strange and unfortunate paths.

Yet inside of his "regularity" he manifested always a singular independence and, at times, even detachment. I have mentioned with what hesitancy he hesitated to give his leaders at a distance at a time when he and they might easily have fallen into some sort of friendly relations.

The incidents connected with the famous dinner at the Victoria, which Mr. Whitney urged him to attend, during the campaign of 1892, were dramatically told by Mr. Whitney. I was then by a prominent member of the National Committee that Mr. Whitney became alarmed at Tammany's lack of interest in the campaign. Mr. Cleveland was shrewdly clinging to the protective isolation of his summer home at Gray Gables, when Mr. Whitney told him that he knew of a candidate that he should put something into writing by way of a peace proposition, or pledge, which would so far satisfy the Tammany leaders as to get them to work for the candidate.

To this—so I was informed—Mr. Cleveland's reply was that if the National committee regarded such a written pledge from the candidate as a necessity, they, being well acquainted with the circumstances, must be right; and, therefore, he would sign the pledge, so that they could obtain a candidate who would make the required pledge.

As the resignation of the nominee was a thing not to be thought of, he was then asked if he would meet some of the Tammany leaders at dinner. Mr. Cleveland replied that he would meet any persons that the committee thought it desirable for the candidate to meet. He thereupon came to New York and met at the Hotel Hamilton, with Mr. Croker and members of the Democratic machine. The next day one of the papers announced that at the dinner he had given entirely satisfactory assurances to Tammany Hall.

As it happened I was walking down Broadway that evening with a friend, the Kentucky poet, Robert Burns Wilson, and thought I would drop in and introduce him to the ex-President. Mr. Cleveland's leading supporter, Robert Lincoln O'Brien, in the hall at the top of the stairway, I told him my errand, and asked what was going on. When he informed me who were in council I said that I was sure I was not wanted; but he insisted upon announcing my name, when I came out, Cleveland, to spend some time in genial talk with the young Kentuckian. So when, next morning, I read the news of his surrender to Tammany Hall I could not believe it, not only because it would be out of character, but because he was, when I saw him, far from having given up his own way of doing something against his will and judgment.

Mr. Cleveland never told me just what happened, but I took it all on my own. He was a man of a certain political made the demand of a written pledge, Mr. Cleveland flamed up, and, bringing his fist down on the table with a crash, declared that rather than do what was asked of him he would suffer damnation! At this he turned pale, thinking that it was "all up." After this unmistakable declaration of independence, Mr. Cleveland moved down to the hotel, and subsequently said that if he ever were President again he would not divide the party into personal friends and personal enemies, but would regard all alike and without partiality. It was this last statement to which the Tammany representatives clung, setting him at ease and making him comfortable. The course of events, in the ensuing administration, it may be added, showed that no embarrassing compact of compromise was entered into by the candidate.

Now let us go forward to the eve of Mr. Cleveland's second election. I wonder if it ever happened with a candidate before, in our time, that such an evening should be passed without the presence of a single political associate in the undisturbed privacy of home!

Dr. Joseph D. Bryant, his devoted friend and physician, and myself were alone with him in his home on First street. We sat a while chatting in Mr. Cleveland's library. Then Dr. Bryant moved to his study, and I suggested that we walk down to the doctor's house, then on Thirty-sixth street, with him. On the way down Mr. Cleveland said little. When we turned to walk back to Fifty-first street, I found him in a very solemn mood. I do not know how it happened, but we fell to talking about that dinner at the Victoria, when he was reported to have placed the New York appointments at the disposal of Tammany Hall.

As I knew better, I did not hesitate to remark: "I will tell you what I said to a friend of mine today: I told him that rather than know that Cleveland had done what was charged I should prefer to be told that he was

dead!" Quick as a flash, "That is right," came Mr. Cleveland's response. "What is a leader to us? I went on, 'or he ceases to lead those who, in the cause of good government, have chosen him as their champion?' 'You are right,' again he exclaimed with warm sympathy and approval.

Then he added that no person had the right to give the details of that dinner, but if they could be fully told, one would have reason to disapprove his part in the affair. He said, furthermore, that not to any person had explanation of the occurrence been made except to a certain prominent Republican, whom he named, one who had come out in his favor at the time of his defeat four years before.

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PROPOSALS

For the Purchase of County Bonds

Proposals will be received by the Commissioners of Fairfield County at their office in the County Court House at Bridgeport, Conn., until September 8, 1909, at 12 o'clock noon, for the purchase, in whole or in part, of one hundred and forty-five, one thousand dollar gold bonds of said County, to be issued under a resolution of the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut passed at its January Session, 1909, and approved June 29th, 1909. Said bonds will be dated October 1st, 1909, bearing interest at four per cent. per annum payable April 1st and October 1st of each year. Said bonds will be redeemable at any time after October 1st, 1929, at the option of the County Commissioners, and will be ready for delivery at the Connecticut National Bank of Bridgeport, October 1st, 1909, when the money for same must be paid.

All proposals must be sealed, marked proposals for bonds, directed to the County Commissioners of Fairfield County, and accompanied by a certified check for two per cent. of the amount bid.

The purpose of this bond issue is to pay off the outstanding indebtedness of said County so that said bonds, when issued, will represent the total indebtedness of said County. A sinking fund provided for by the payment of the bonds at maturity. Bonds will have coupons attached and may be registered.

The County Commissioners reserve the right to reject any or all bids. For further particulars address the County Commissioners at their office.

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SIMEON PERSE,
JOHN BROPHY,
Commissioners for Fairfield County.

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